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THE
T R I A L
O F
RENWICK WILLIAMS,
(Commonly called The MONSTER)

AT THE
OLD BAILEY, on THURSDAY the 8th of July 1790,
BEFORE
JUDGE BULLER, AND A MIDDLESEX JURY,
For assaulting and wounding Miss Ann Porter.

TAKEN IN SHORT-HAND BY L. WILLIAMS, ESQUIRE.

L O N D O N :

Printed for D. BREWMAN, N^o 18, Little New Street, Shoe Lane; and sold by SYMONDS,
Paternoster Row; and all other Bookfellers.

PRICE ONE SHILLING.

RENWICK WILLIAMS

(Commonly called The Monster)



JUDGE BUTLER, AND A MIDDLESEX JURY

For printing and reprinting Mrs. Ann Taylor.

Taken in Great-Hall at St. William's, London.

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Printed for D. Bland, N. 18, Little New Street, near Lane; and for S. Bland,
Paternoster Row; and all other Booksellers.

ENTER ONE BILLING.

T H E
T R I A L
O F
RENWICK WILLIAMS.

TUESDAY the 7th of July, RENWICK WILLIAMS, commonly called THE MONSTER, was arraigned at the Bar of the Old Bailey, charged with making an assault upon Ann Frost, spinster, on the 9th of November last, in Jermyn-street, St. James's, and wickedly, wilfully, and maliciously tearing and spoiling her garments, to wit, the gown, petticoats, and shift of said Ann—against the statute in that case provided.

For the commission of a similar offence in Holborn, on the 5th of May, on Sarah, the wife of John Davis.

The same, on Sarah, the wife of John Godfrey, on May 13, in St. Mary-le-Bone.

The 26th of September, on Mary Forster, in Maxwell-street.

The 6th of December, on Elizabeth Baughan, in Parliament-street.—For a like act on the same day, in the same street, on Frances Baughan.

For the like act, on Ann Porter, the 18th of January, in St. James's-street.

To all which pleading Not Guilty, he was remanded to confinement; and, on Thursday, was conducted into court, precisely at nine o'clock, to take his trial on the latter indictment, before Judge Buller, and a Middlesex Jury. Mr. Knowles appeared.

appeared as counsel for the prisoner; and Messrs. Pigot and Shepherd, for the prosecutor.

The Jury being sworn, Mr. Pigot addressed them nearly as follows :

Gentlemen,

The prisoner at the Bar stands charged with a crime the most disgraceful which can possibly taint the character of man : his object, to insult the fairest, the most amiable, the most beautiful part of the creation, with language gross, obscene, and horrible. Four young ladies, sisters, have proved the objects of his malice ; to two of them, his person is perfectly familiar. Miss Ann Porter, in company with one of her sisters, and a lady, missing their attendants after passing the evening at the ball-room, in St. James, on the 18th of January, were under the necessity of walking home, between eleven and twelve o'clock. They were followed by the prisoner at the bar ; which, being observed by the sister Miss Sarah, she begged her to run. This she did, without knowing the reason ; but as she reached her father's door, the attack was made, the particulars of which will shortly be related by the witnesses ; her cloaths were cut across, and she was wounded, by an instrument, in the right hip. As if rejoicing in this atrocious deed, the prisoner viewed with much effrontery, the scene of horror which he had occasioned.

On being compelled afterwards by Mr. Coleman, by whose means he was apprehended, to consent to submit himself to the view of the ladies, and that gentleman saying they were *near* the house of Mr. Porter, Williams, without any particular direction, and without being minutely conducted, went straight to the door—thus proving, that he was by no means a stranger to the house.

It will appear, that his lodging has been at a little public-house in Bury-street ; that the room where he slept had three beds, and two in an adjacent room, but with no other entrance than by means of the first ; and that in these beds six men usually slept.

I am told that the prisoner means to endeavour at the establishment of an *alibi*, as the only possible means left to invalidate, the conviction stamped on the minds of the young ladies, that he is positively the perpetrator of the enormities already enumerated. Give me leave, gentlemen, to observe, that this mode of defence may be considered in two light ; the *best* and the *worst* testimony which can be adduced. The former, as indicating the most certain grounds of innocence ; the latter, as including a scene of villainy but somewhat inferior to the first crime ; exclusive of the mischiefs which may result from defeating the regular and necessary course of justice.

In the commission of almost every human crime, we may trace a motive. But what shall I say to the present case : no visible inducement, no purpose to answer, no revenge to satisfy, no injury to be redressed—Beauty and Virtue falling by the assassin's hand—in vain must we look for the object and the end. Yet has this man *female* relations!

I shall

I shall forbear expatiating further, in the full assurance that you will give due attention to the evidence which I shall now proceed to adduce.

MISS ANN PORTER.

Question. When did you receive the injury stated in the indictment? Answer. On the 18th of January last, the Queen's birth-day.

Q. Where did you pass the evening of that day? A. In the ball-room at St. James's.

Q. What time did you leave the ball-room? A. Between eleven and twelve o'clock.

Q. What passed after that time? A. I left the ball-room in company with my sister Sarah and Mrs. Meale.

Q. What happened in your passage from thence to your own house? A. I was much alarmed on being followed by a man.

Q. Did you see the prisoner? A. Yes, I did. My sister suddenly desired me to run as fast as possible.

Q. What happened afterwards? A. My sister reached the door first; Mrs. Meale next; and last, myself.

Q. What occurred when you reached the door? A. I felt a violent blow on my hip.

Q. Do you know from whom that blow proceeded? A. I saw the prisoner stoop down.

Q. Have you any recollection of his person? A. Yes; I have seen him before, three or four times: sometimes he has walked behind, then before me, uttering the most gross and abusive language, in the day-time.

Q. How long did the prisoner continue at the door after he had given the blow? A. Cannot exactly say; after the blow I felt a strange sensation.

Q. Did you see the prisoner afterwards? A. Yes; he stood and stared me in the face.

Q. Are you sure it was the prisoner at the Bar? A. Yes; I saw him perfectly.

Q. You are confident? A. I have not the smallest doubt; suffering so much at different times on his account, I could not be deceived.

Q. You received a wound? A. Yes.

Q. When next did you see the prisoner? A. On Sunday the 13th of June, in St. James's Park, when walking with my mother, two of my sisters, and Mr. Coleman.

Q. Did Coleman see the prisoner? A. Not till I pointed him out.

Q. How came you to observe him? A. He met and passed us; I knew him in a moment; and being much agitated, Mr. Coleman asked the reason.

Q. By what means are you confident that the person you thus met, was the identical man who had previously insulted you? A. After he had passed us, I turned

turned round, for more complete observation; in that instant, he did the same, as if to notice me.

Q. Did you perfectly recollect him, when brought to your house, afterwards, by Mr. Coleman? A. I was then in a state of insensibility.

Q. Was he pointed out to you before you recognised him at the Public Office in Bow-street? A. He was not pointed out.

Cross examined by Mr. KNOWLES; who thought it necessary to make some previous apology to Miss Porter, on account of the injuries which it could not be denied she had received from *some* person.

Q. Your sister, did she not, give you the first intimation of danger? A. I did not at first understand my sister; but ran as fast as I was able.

Q. When you arrived at your father's house, did you find the door open? A. The door was not opened for some time.

Q. While waiting at the door, you received a violent blow from some person? A. Yes.

Q. What passed after you received the blow? A. I was much alarmed and fluttered.

Q. How close was the person to you when you turned round? A. Within three yards.

Q. At this time was the middle of the street light? A. Yes.

Q. Pray, as you had an opportunity of observing, what was the prisoner's dress at that time? A. He appeared to have on a great coat.

Q. When did this matter happen? A. Within five minutes after leaving the palace, between eleven and twelve o'clock.

[Here Miss Porter's dress was produced; the gown, of silk, had a very long rent in it; as had the shift, but not so long as the first: evidently from the effect of a violent attack.]

Q. You are confident that this is the gown you had on? A. Yes.

Q. And that rent proceeded from the blow? A. Yes.

Q. Was your person hurt? A. Yes.

Q. Cut? A. Yes.

Q. The street was light enough to see other objects farther distant from you than the person who committed the assault? A. Yes.

SARAH PORTER.

Q. Do you know the prisoner at the Bar? A. Yes.

Q. Did you ever see him before the 18th of June? A. Yes.

Q. Had you any acquaintance with him? A. No.

Q. Where did you see him? A. He followed us, at four different times, in the street. Once he put his hand over my shoulder, and uttered language the most gross and dreadful.

Q. Did

- Q. Did his conversation tend to any thing else? A. No.
- Q. How often did you see him previous to the last attack? A. I saw him four times.
- Q. Did you observe him particularly? A. Yes.
- Q. You knew his person perfectly on the 18th of January? A. Yes.
- Q. Where, then, did you first observe him? A. In St. James's-street; we left the ball-room at a quarter past eleven; and I saw him, standing with his back to us, looking down the street: a chairman passing by, he turned round, came up, and said—"O ho!" then gave me a violent blow on the back part of my head.
- Q. What then did you do? A. Requested my sister to run as fast as possible—for God's sake to make haste—for that the *wretch* was behind us.
- Q. Who had you in company at this time? A. Another lady; we all run as fast as possible.
- Q. Did you observe what passed at the door? A. Yes; I saw the whole affair. I saw him strike at my sister with his hand shut; and I heard the noise occasioned by the *rent* in her gown.
- Q. Are you confident that this person was the same whom you had so often met before? A. Yes; have no doubt; none in the world.
- Q. And was the light occasioned by the lamps on the Queen's Birth-day, sufficient to enable you to distinguish the person of the prisoner? A. It was.
- Q. What passed after your sister had been wounded? A. When we got into the passage, I observed Williams on the threshold of the door.
- Q. How long before this was it that you saw the prisoner? A. While at work in the window, about a week before, saw him pass by; and, impressed with great apprehension, I screamed.
- Q. When at Bow-street, did any one point him out to your notice? A. I selected him myself from the crowd.
- Q. You have no doubt as to his person? A. Not the least shadow, or I would not have sworn.

Cross examination.

- Q. On the alarm, was your door opened before the prisoner came up? A. No.
- Q. Did the blow appear to you, to be as hard as could be given? A. Yes.
- Q. Was it more than one blow? A. No.
- Q. Was the instrument a sharp cutting one? A. Yes.
- Q. Have you heard any thing of another prosecution for cutting? A. Yes.
- Q. When at Bow-street, did you at once, without instruction, fix on the prisoner? A. I did.

REBECCA PORTER.

- Q. Was you at the ball-room on the Queen's Birth-day? A. I was not.
- Q. Have you ever seen the prisoner at the Bar before? A. Yes, several times. I was once with my sister Ann when he accosted her.

C

Q. Of

- Q. Of what nature was his conversation? A. Highly gross and improper.
 Q. Did you easily recognize him when in custody at Bow-street? A. Yes.
 Q. Is he the same man who accosted your sister? A. Yes; I have not the least doubt.

MARTHA PORTER.

- Q. Look at the prisoner; have you ever seen him before? A. Yes; several times. I was once with my sister Ann when he accosted her.
 Q. Did he behave as a gentleman ought? A. No, his expressions were dreadful; his manner horrid.
 Q. Have you any doubt as to the person of the prisoner? A. Not the least; am quite positive.
 Q. Did you see him at Bow-street? A. Yes; and am positive, very so, that he is the man who accosted my sister.

JOHN COLEMAN.

- Q. Do you remember being with Miss Porter on the 13th of June last, in the afternoon or evening? A. Yes: walking in the Park at that time with Miss Ann Porter, a person passed, whom she pointed out as being the prisoner, exclaiming, "The *wretch* has just passed us!" She appeared greatly agitated.
 Q. Are you sure that the prisoner is the same person? A. Yes.
 Q. When you saw the person described as the *wretch*, what followed? A. He walked very fast towards Spring Gardens, to a bookseller's at the corner; from thence to the Admiralty Passage, back again, another way, to Spring Gardens, as if conscious of being followed. He next passed up Cockspur-street to Pall Mall; while I followed sufficiently near to be perceived. Passing into St. James's-street, I was joined by a gentleman of my acquaintance: from thence the prisoner went to Bolton-street, where knocking at a door, he went into the house for five minutes. When he came out, my friend enquired at the house if they knew him; while I followed to Piccadilly, and from thence to St. James's-street again, where he knocked at a door, and asked some questions of a servant.
 Q. Did this servant know him? A. No. From St. James's-street I followed him to Bond-street; endeavouring, all the way, to insult him; walking sometimes before, and sometimes behind him, staring him in the face.
 Q. Did he say any thing in consequence? A. No. But I continued my gestures of offence; nay, made a feint to square at him. He passed to Oxford Road, and into Vere-street, where he knocked lustily at the door of an empty house: but no one appearing, I accosted him, to know what he could expect from knocking so violently where there was not the shadow of gaining admittance. He said he knew the parties belonging to the house, their name was Pearce, and knocked again, loud enough to rouse even in the garret, if any one had been within.

Q. How

Q. How long did he continue at this door? **A.** Three or four minutes. After which he again crossed Oxford-street, to Southmolton-street, where he knocked. I followed behind, and saw him enter the house. Of Mr. Smith, the master of this house, I asked information of the man; but he requested me to assign a reason for my question. We were speaking in a parlour in the dark. I requested his address, offering to give my own: but Williams, and indeed Smith, appeared to be disinclined without my assigning some reason. I then said that he had insulted some ladies under my protection, for which I meant to demand satisfaction. He offered to meet me at any coffee-house. But persisting in my request, we at length exchanged, he giving me his direction at "No. 52, Jermyn-street," in Bury-street. I now thought I had some previous knowledge of this man; and he, too, began to know something of me: after some time, it was recollected that we had seen each other at an assembly in King-street, Covent Garden. When I had suffered him to go from me, I began to reflect that I had done wrong, that I should have secured him.

Q. When next did you see him? **A.** On my return back, I again met him in St. James's-street; and, looking stedfastly at him, said, "I cannot think you are the person described. Come with me; we are near Mr. Porter's door; satisfy the ladies that they are mistaken. This he did not refuse; he went to the door; and being introduced into the parlour, Misses Ann and Sarah both fainted: when recovered, one of them exclaimed, "O my God, Coleman, that is the wretch, that is the wretch!" Ann would not stay in the room.

Q. Did this seeming odd behaviour of the ladies produce any particular expressions from the prisoner? **A.** He asked, "Do the ladies suspect me to be the person advertised? Am I suspected?" I answered, "It is really so!" and though he staid an hour afterwards, do not recollect that he said any thing of consequence, or that his behaviour betrayed either apprehension, triumph, or concern.

Court. No particular expression fell from the prisoner on this occasion? **A.** No one of moment.

Court. Do you know where he lodged at this time? **A.** No; I was never at his lodgings.

Q. How was the address written? **A.** Smith wrote it, by prisoner's directions.

Cross examined.

Q. He gave you his address? **A.** Yes.

Q. Did he act and speak with the confidence of an innocent man? **A.** Am not clear.

M' MANUS.

This evidence, who is a Bow-street officer, proved the seizure of a great coat and a pair of boots in the prisoner's lodging in Bury-street. On being asked by Mr. Knowles at the immediate instance of prisoner, if he had seen there any instrument, or cloth or thing bloody, he answered, no.

Mr.

Mr. TOMPKIN, Surgeon.

Q. What do you know of Miss Ann Porter? A. I lately attended her, in consequence of a wound she received from some assassin.

Q. Does it appear to you, that the instrument used was sharp? A. Yes; very sharp.

Q. Of what nature was the wound? A. The depth of the wound was four inches; the skin was injured the breadth of nine or ten inches; and, if not for the intervention of the stays, the instrument must have penetrated the abdomen.

The evidence for the prosecution closing here, the Court called on the prisoner for his defence.

DEFENCE of the PRISONER.

When it is considered what universal alarm the depredations of the man, denominated *The Monster*, have excited in the metropolis, need we wonder that the moment in which he is about to make his defence, should be considered as an interesting one, by a splendid and numerous auditory! silence and attention pervaded every corner.

He endeavoured to speak his defence from a few random notes; but losing his recollection, he found himself, after several attempts, unable to proceed. He therefore begged permission to read it from a paper; which being granted, he began by observing, that however poignant might have been the sufferings of his prosecutors, he must consider his own to be of equal, if not of greater magnitude, than theirs. Independent of standing in the predicament of a criminal, he had the popular cry, whether true or false, against him; scandalous paragraphs and injurious reports were multiplied without number: against the force and the clamour, therefore, of popular prejudice, he had to contend; and he was ready to confess that this ungenerous treatment had almost deprived him of the ability to proceed with proper spirit in his justification. But he had one consolation, that of trial by an English jury; and to the tribunal before which he stood, should he cheerfully resign himself. He had no doubt but the prosecution arose on the grounds of some dreadful mistake; and this, he had little doubt, would be fully proved by the witnesses who were about to appear in his justification.

Evidence to prove the ALIBI.

— MICHELL, an artificial florist, examined by means of an interpreter.

Q. Where do you live? A. In Dover-street, No. 14, Piccadilly.

Q. Do you know the prisoner? A. Yes.

Q. Did he live with you as a servant? A. Yes; eight or nine months.

Q. Was he with you in January last? A. Yes.

Q. Did he work with you on the Queen's birth-day? A. Yes.

Q. How

Q. How long did he work that day? A. From nine in the morning, till half past twelve at night!

Q. Was he absent any part of the day? A. Yes; from one till two.

Q. Did he sup with you that night? A. Yes, at twelve, and staid till half past twelve.

Q. Did he work that day more than usual? A. Yes, more than common.

Q. Was he at work all the day? A. Yes, incessantly till nine at night; and finally quitted at half past twelve.

Q. If out for any considerable space of time, is it likely that it would have been observed? A. It must have been known.

Q. Of what kind of disposition was Renwick Williams? A. Of the best; his character the best a man can bear, as to work.

Q. What his behaviour to the women servants? A. Civil.

Q. How long have you known the prisoner? A. I have been in London four years, and have known the prisoner eight or nine months: he came, asked for work, and was taken without any recommendation.

Q. What is your general time of leaving off work? A. Nine o'clock.

Q. How often do you work till twelve? A. Only when hurried with a press of business. For fourteen days previous to the 18th, this was the case, in consequence of an order from *Ireland*!

Q. Have you this order in writing? A. No; the gentleman left it himself.

Q. During this hurry, how often did the prisoner work till twelve o'clock. A. Cannot exactly say; but seven or eight times.

Q. Were you from home, the 18th of January? A. Yes; I went out about three, from curiosity, and returned at six in the evening.

Q. And had you no curiosity to see the illuminations after this time? A. No, I received an order after my return.

Q. Who brought the order? A. Mr. Jervoise, who came from Mrs. Abingdon, and gave orders to me that it must be done as soon as possible.

Q. Who worked on this order? A. Myself, the prisoner, and two women lodgers. The English women had leave given them to go out.

Q. Were you and the prisoner out together that day? A. No.

Q. Where did the prisoner dine on the 18th? A. Don't know.

Q. Did he always sup with you? A. Never but on urgent occasions.

Q. Was the prisoner constant at his work? A. Yes; was *never* in the street but once or twice, unless sent out.

Q. To ascertain the moment of his departure on the 18th, did you look at your watch? A. No.

Q. Then how swear positively to half past twelve? A. I heard it from the maid, who looked at the clock, and observed how well the clock kept time with the watchman.

Q. Who let out the prisoner? A. Molly.

Q. In what part of the house did she make her observation? A. Do not know *where* she made it; it was not made to him, but to his sister!

D

Q. When

Q. When did your sister inform you of the observation made? A. Some time afterwards; *about three weeks ago!*

Q. What had you for supper that night? A. Cannot recollect.

Q. After the 18th of January, when next did you see the prisoner? A. Next morning, between seven and eight o'clock.

Q. How long afterwards did he continue to work with you? A. Till the 4th of June, the King's Birth-day.

Q. Where did the Irish gentleman lodge who left the order? A. In Piccadilly, next door to the Paris diligence.

Q. Why in particular, recollect the occurrences in your family on the Queen's Birth-day? A. Prisoner applied to me to know if I could recollect those circumstances? Never thought of it, till such application.

Q. Were you at home last night? [*Hesitates.*] A. I walked out to Mary-le-bone, Grosvenor and Soho-squares, before tea.

Q. And were you from home afterwards? A. No.

Q. Did you not pass Lord William Gordon's house in Piccadilly last night? A. No; but *now* recollect going to Jermyn-street to settle with a carpenter—from thence I went to several other places, and then home.

Q. Then you were not in the Green Park last night, nor near Lord William Gordon's? A. No.

MISS MICHELL.

Q. With respect to yourself, what has been the prisoner's behaviour? A. He deserves the best of characters.

Q. Who took in the order from Mrs. Abingdon? A. Myself and brother.

Q. Who was present when the prisoner left your house on the night of January 18? A. My brother, myself, two women, and a man who came in accidentally.

Q. Who let him out? A. They call her *Molly*; I do not know her *Christian* name!

Court. Does your brother carry on a large trade? A. Yes; very large.

Q. When did you first hear the observation made by the woman, that the clock and watchman agreed on the night of the 18th as to time? A. About three weeks since.

Q. To whose account was Mrs. Abingdon's dress entered in your books? A. To Mr. Jervoise, who gave the order.

To prove this assertion more fully, Mr. Justice Buller ordered a messenger to fetch the account books of Michell, and of Jervoise, and requesting the latter also to attend the Court. In the mean while, proceeded to examine

CATHERINE HARMOND.

Q. Who let out the prisoner from your master's house on the night of the Queen's birth-day? A. My sister, at half past twelve o'clock.

Q. What

Q. What do you know of his disposition and temper? A. He is not malicious, but good-natured and civil.

Q. How did he attend his business? A. Very constantly; never out all day, except once or twice on leave.

Q. How long have you lived at Michell's? A. Three years.

Q. Did the prisoner often work so late as on the 18th of January? A. Cannot swear he ever worked so late since.

Q. Did you and your sister never visit him at his lodgings? A. No.

Q. How happened it, that you so well recollect the lateness of the prisoner's departure? A. My sister said, she was *afraid* he would not be able to get into his lodgings.

Q. Where did your sister mention to you the time of the prisoner's departure? A. In the parlour, immediately after he went away.

Q. In what language did she speak? A. In English.

Q. Do you and your sister understand French? A. Yes.

Q. And was not French the common language used in the family? A. Yes.

Q. Then what you wished others not to hear, you spoke in English? A. We generally conversed on our own affairs in English.

Q. From the conversation between you, that evening, from your sister's *fears* that the prisoner would be too late for his lodging, and the coincidence between the clock and the watchman, you are confident of the time he left your master's house? A. Positively recollect the time.

Court. When were the orders given for the goods to be sent to Ireland.

A. On the Wednesday following!

Q. Do you recollect the quantity? A. Cannot say.

Q. Did you hear any thing of the Irish order on the 18th? A. No.

MOLLY HARMOND.

Q. What time did you let out the prisoner on the queen's birth-day from your master's? A. At half past twelve.

Q. Are you sure he supped there? A. Yes.

Q. How long had you lived there? A. Six weeks.

Q. What was the prisoner's character, as to disposition? A. Good nature was his general character.

Q. Do you recollect his ever staying so late before? A. He never staid so late before.

Q. Are you confident he never staid late, but on this one occasion? A. He did stay *sometimes* when business pressed.

Q. How long did you continue in the shop on the 18th of January? A. From four till twelve.

Q. Did your master work that day, or was he absent? A. Know not when he came home, nor when he began to work.

Q. Who were employed on Mrs. Abingdon's drefs? A. Myself, *master*, and the prisoner.

Q. Did you never express your *fears* that the prisoner would not find his lodgings open on that night? A. No, never expressed *any* anxiety about it!

Q. By

Q. By what means did you notice the clock that night? A. Mr. Williams, in going out, asked what o'clock it was, and told me to look.

Q. When did you inform your sister of the hour of the prisoner's departure? A. About three weeks since, after he was apprehended!

FRANCES BEAUTE, a Workwoman.

Q. Do you know the prisoner? A. Yes.

Q. How long did you work on the evening of the queen's birth-day? A. Till half past eleven.

Q. Where do you live? A. In Coventry-court, Coventry-street.

Q. Was the prisoner at work that day? A. Yes; I left him there; the cloth was about to be laid for supper when I departed.

Q. As to the prisoner's behaviour, what can you say? He always appeared good-natured.

Q. How long have you lived in the family? A. About six weeks.

Q. Did you see your master from two to six? A. Yes, he was never out! All were to work on the gown from two till half past eleven!

Q. When was the gown finished? A. A day or two after the birth-day.

On her cross examination, knows only generally, that an order came from Ireland.

POURNE, another of the Women.

Q. How long did you live with Mr. Michell? A. From Christmas to February 14.

Q. On which order were you working the 18th of January? A. On the same order in morning as afternoon.

Q. What do you know of your master's attention to business that day? A. He worked from dinner, immediately after two o'clock, till eleven.

Q. Did he go out? A. Cannot positively say; but believe he did.

Q. When were you applied to for your evidence? A. Since the taking of the prisoner.

Mr. JERVOISE.

Q. When did you call on Michell with your order for Mrs. Abingdon? A. On the Queen's Birth-day.

Q. At what hour did you call? A. At seven I went with the pattern, but did not give the order till eight.

Q. Did you see Michell? A. No, he was out at seven, and, I believe, at eight. Don't recollect seeing him at all that evening.

Q. When did you receive your order complete? A. Eight yards of trimming were delivered to me next morning; Mrs. Abingdon only wanted six; I kept the two others myself: it was eighteen shillings per yard.

Q. Do

Q. Do you know any thing of the prisoner? A. By going frequently to the house—for I married Mr. Michell's sister—I observed in him nothing but good nature.

Mr. Jervoise was the last who appeared in support of the alibi; after which Counsel proceeded to call fourteen persons to bear honourable testimony to the prisoner's character: among whom were *several* young women, whose appearance, however, did not bespeak them of the highest class, but rather of the inferior kind.

Sarah Brady had known him six months, and found him inoffensive.

Miss Camorin had *knowledge* of him for eight years; worked with him five months, and found him thoroughly good natured and civil.

Carey, a publican, gave him the character of an amiable young man: but could say little as to his general means of supporting himself.

Mr. Crompton, an attorney, said he had lived with him two months; that he was not surly, but attentive to business.

Mary Pearce, a respectable woman, had known him from a child.

Thomas Williams, of St. James's street, had known him six years, and was perfectly astonished at the accusation. He always thought he *liked the ladies too well!* He had often seen the prisoner make artificial flowers, as learnt him by his sister. But knew nothing as to his visible means of livelihood.

Sarah Seward said she had known him four years; that he was an honest young man; that his behaviour to her had been *manly* [*loud laugh*]; that he had saved her life!

William Baker believes him to be an honest young man; he slept at his house four months.

Mr. Smith produced nothing in addition to the character of his old acquaintance, whatever might have been his intention.

In this predicament was James Sterling:

JUDGE'S CHARGE to the JURY.

Mr. Justice Buller, with wonderful judgment and ability, went through the whole of this intricate and extraordinary affair. He began with adverting to the defence set up by the prisoner, which he said was conducted on proper grounds. Popular prejudices often injured, without ever serving the cause of justice. Under these circumstances, the prisoner had done well to throw himself on the compassion of the Jury: they were bound to deliberate and to determine dispassionately. It was their province to determine on facts; they must discriminate what bore the semblance of truth, and what of falsehood. Should they find the prisoner guilty on the present charge, he should still reserve his case for the opinion of the Twelve Judges of England; and this for several reasons. First, he was not satisfied of the forms and sufficiency of the indictment. It was a new case, it was the first of the kind which had ever been tried. The statute upon which this indictment was founded, is the 6th Geo. I. chap. 23, sect. 11, which enacts, "That if any person or
F. persons

persons shall, at any time or times, from and after the 24th day of June, in the year of our Lord 1720, wilfully and maliciously assault any person or persons in the public streets or highways, with an intent to tear, spoil, cut, burn, or deface, or shall tear, spoil, cut, burn, or deface the garments or cloaths of such person or persons, that then all and every person and persons so offending, being thereof lawfully convicted, shall be, and be adjudged to be guilty of *felony*, &c."

Allowing the fact, that Ann Porter was cut, the intent remained to be proved; and, next, whether the act was perpetrated by the prisoner? From the many opportunities which the Miss Porters had of seeing the prisoner; from the lightness of the street, when last attacked, it is probable that these ladies could *not* be mistaken. The familiar manner—"O ho!" in which the assassin addressed Miss Porter in St. James's-street, when a chairman was passing, certainly indicated a previous intimacy. It was not the language, nor the manner, of a stranger: and yet nothing is more clear, than that Renwick Williams had neither correspondence nor intimacy with the Porter family. To what cause, then, must we impute this singular manner of address—"O ho!"

The evidence of Coleman is clear and circumstantial; the prisoner was pointed out to him by Ann Porter; he instantly followed him from street to street, threw himself insultingly in his way, to dare him to an explanation: but these insults the prisoner bore with patience and forbearance. That he should go direct to the door of Mr. Porter, when informed by Coleman that they were near the spot, by no means serves to criminate: independently of what had happened, he might know the residence of this family. View him before the most affecting scene, which can be conceived; two young ladies fainting, and exclaiming, "That is the wretch!" What is the reply, "Do the ladies conceive me to be the person advertised? Their behaviour is very odd." Coleman said, "It is really so!" and though, after this, he remained on the spot a considerable time, it does not appear, that he said any thing, or at least so little as not to be worth the recollection. Was this the conduct of an innocent man?

Giving his address to Coleman, at a place where he did not lodge, by no means militates in his disfavour. It was the residence of his mother, and where he was supposed to be always heard of. That was sufficient.

There were seven to prove an alibi: Michells evidence turns out to be all hearsay; he is culpable: it was not till after the imprisonment of Williams, that he began to recollect what passed on the 18th of January; and his evidence is replete with contradictions. His sister and himself expressly disagree as to the time of Jervoise's calling at the house: Michell also swears that he had the Irish order a fortnight before the Queen's Birth-day; one of his servants, that it came the Sunday preceding that day; and another, that they were not busy for two weeks before the 18th.

Catharine Harmond swears to having communicated the hour when the prisoner left the house, to her sister, that evening, in English, in the parlour; the other flatly contradicts this assertion, and ascribes the matter to have occurred since the prisoner was apprehended. It seems pretty clear, that Mrs. Abingdon's order did not arrive

arrive till the evening ; and yet another swears that the same work which was in hand in the morning, remained so in the afternoon.

Where Jervoise and Michell disagree, the former's accounts, being fair, seem to justify his relation. The accounts of the latter have not that candid appearance. It has been established, that the prisoner supped often at the house of his master ; for which reason, it is the less to be expected, that one night should be more particularly recognized than another.

In answer, it may be observed, that the principal evidences are Foreigners ; that, without an evil intention, they are more liable than others, to mistakes. Little variations, however, in such a case, ought not to weigh decisively, were the grand outlines properly established.

There were fourteen persons who had appeared in behalf of the prisoner : some of them had long since lost sight of his acquaintance, and others had contracted it but recently. The weight of their opinions should operate properly on the minds of the Jury.

There was a wound given with an instrument not calculated altogether for the purpose of affecting the body, such for instance as *piercing* or *stabbing* by making a hole. Here was an actual cutting, and the wound was of considerable length ; so was the rent in the cloaths. It remained, therefore, with the Jury to decide, whether as both body and cloaths were cut, he who intended the end, did not at the same time intend also the means.

The Jury, without the least hesitation, found Renwick Williams guilty ; when the Judge ordered judgment to be arrested, and the recognizances of the persons bound to prosecute, to be respited till the next December sessions.

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